

green impact

2025-26

GREEN IMPACT FOR UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES

A UNESCO award-winning programme to embed environmentally and socially sustainable practice across your teams and departments.



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SOS-UK IS AN EDUCATIONAL CHARITY FOCUSING ON SUSTAINABILITY

green impact

SOS-UK delivers the Green Impact programme across the UK



SOS-UK engages, supports and empowers students and wider society to learn, act and lead for sustainability. Ours is a long-term investment in education for a better future tomorrow.



Our mission is getting more students learning, acting and leading for sustainability; embedding sustainability in education, from early years to adult learning; making sustainability more inclusive, so it's for everyone.



SOS-UK is a not-for-profit charity so working with us is an affordable and ethical choice that can bring social value to your supply chain.



We are proud that UNESCO recognise SOS-UK as a global leader of education for sustainable development.





WHAT IS GREEN IMPACT?

Green Impact is a multi award-winning sustainability learning and awards programme, designed to embed sustainable practices across organisations.

Green Impact is all about building a community of staff and students learning about sustainability and working together to create positive change. It is tailored to your organisation to strategically support your local targets and strategies.



IEMA Transforming the world to sustainability

IEMA Sustainability Impact Awards 2019

WINNER



UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development Laureate 2016

20

Green Impact has been running for 20 years

2,288

We have supported more than 2,288 organisations to use the Green Impact model

7

Green Impact has been delivered in seven countries globally

WHY DO WE RUN GREEN IMPACT?

89% of students

say they agree their place of study should actively incorporate and promote sustainable development

81% of students

would like to see sustainable development actively incorporated and promoted through all courses

65% of students

say sustainable development is something they would like to learn more about



54% of students

report that how seriously the university takes environmental issues is a factor influencing their choice of place to study

79% of students

are concerned about the effects of climate change

GREEN IMPACT SUPPORTS ENVIRONMENTALLY AND SOCIALLY SUSTAINABLE PRACTICE THROUGH STAFF ENGAGEMENT

Green Impact suggests what staff can do in their team to support sustainability and guides them how to achieve this. It supports teams to embed the university's sustainability strategy into everyday practices, breaking down barriers to engagement.



Teams

Collaboration and collective impact, engaging staff from all areas of the university



Online toolkit

Guidance on locally relevant actions to take covering all areas of sustainability improvement



Monitoring

Feedback and audits to support progress and assess impacts



Awards

Celebrate and recognise achievements across the organisation

INTENDED OUTCOMES OF GREEN IMPACT

Staff and students know more about sustainability - developing widespread sustainability literacy



Staff and students develop a better understanding of what the organisation is doing on sustainability



Creating a community of people taking action for sustainability from across the whole organisation



Professional and academic development for staff and students



Departments receive recognition for their achievements and are given agency to take action

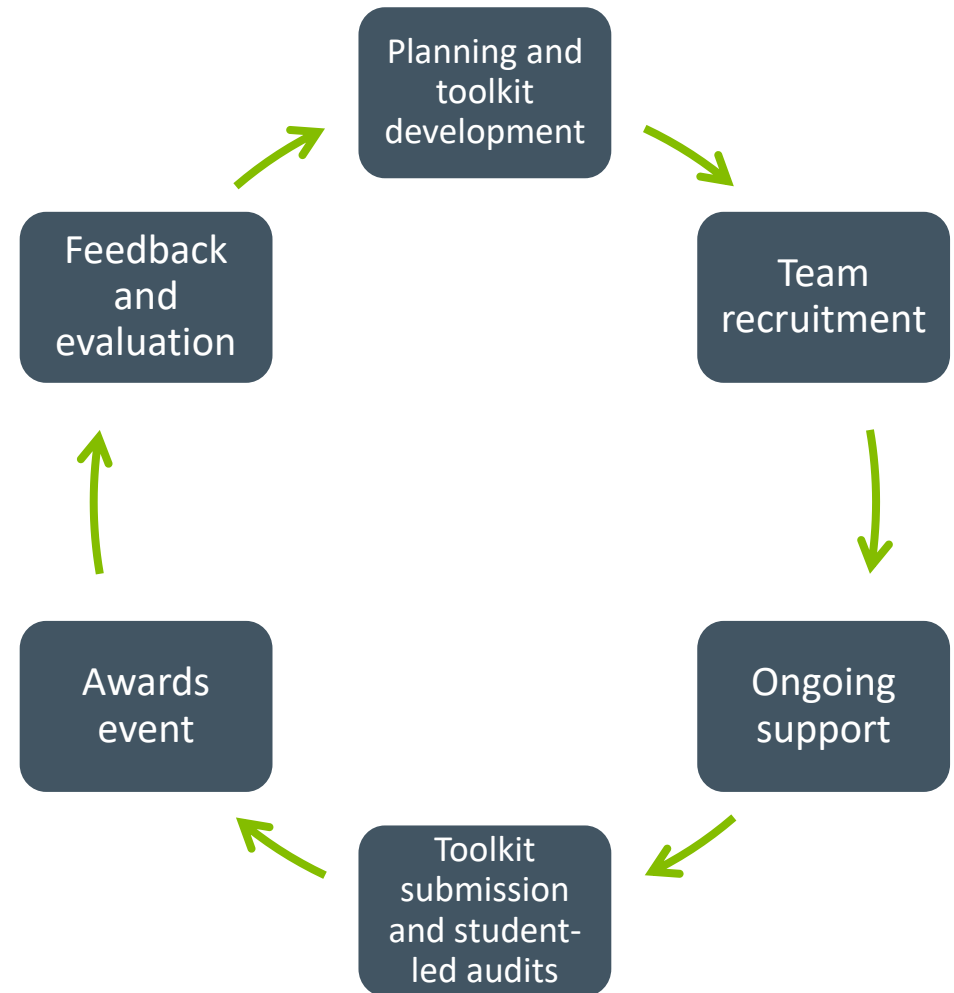
Supporting carbon savings, cost savings and waste reduction

Increased support for and engagement with existing sustainability priorities, targets and initiatives

GREEN IMPACT IS AN ANNUAL CYCLICAL PROGRAMME

Green Impact follows a six-step approach over approximately 12 months, which can be adapted to suit the needs, objectives and culture of the organisations we work with.

Green Impact is so successful in part because it responds to the local environment and offers bespoke solutions to engagement.



THE GREEN IMPACT TOOLKIT

The toolkit will cover all aspects of sustainability. The toolkit is customised for your organisation, and we will work with you to ensure the toolkit supports your targets and aligns with local and international priorities.

The criteria will be turned into an accessible, easy to use, online platform for teams to see where to start, monitor their progress, and provide evidence.

Easy to follow: Each action is tagged to make it easy for teams to filter by the most relevant actions to them.

Providing evidence: Green Impact is not just a tick-boxing exercise. Teams provide comments and evidence as they go to build accountability, support reporting, and gather good practice.

Competition and recognition: Teams will be able to see their progress towards their award, as well as see how other teams around them are doing in the leaderboard

Team collaboration: Actions within the toolkit can be assigned to different members, to ensure Green Impact is a collaborative process across the whole team.

☆ 0001 **Communications**

Criteria	Further information	How you will be audited	Comments & evidence
Environmental issues, including Green Impact participation, are regularly raised at staff meetings.			

Total Points: 1

- N/A
- NOT DONE
- IN PROGRESS
- DONE

Assigned to: Kate Winters

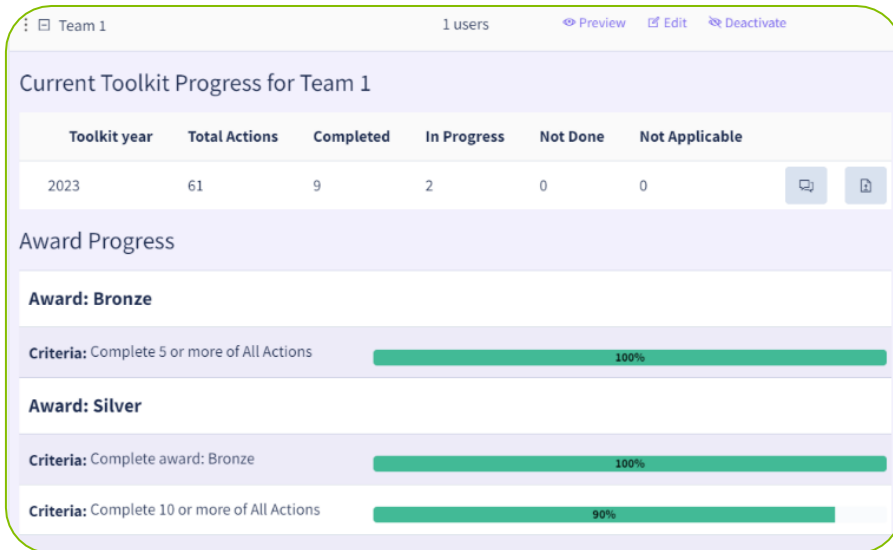
Starred Actions	Assigned Actions
★ 0005 NO STATUS	☑ 0001 DONE
★ 0006 NO STATUS	☑ 0002 NO STATUS
★ 0007 DONE	☑ 0009 NO STATUS

Awards Progress

View your team's progress towards completing this Toolkit's awards.

- Bronze** (DONE)
 - Complete 5 or more of All Actions: 100%
- Silver** (IN PROGRESS)
 - Complete award: Bronze: 100%
 - Complete 10 or more of All Actions: 60%

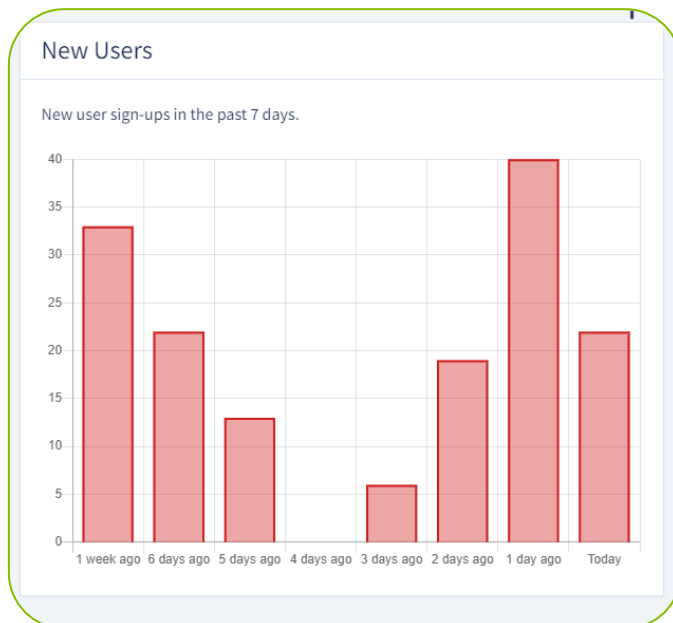
THE GREEN IMPACT TOOLKIT (cont.)



Live reporting: You will be able to see your teams' progress at any time via the live admin dashboard to monitor what has been completed, and where additional support may be required. Evidence provided by teams within the toolkit can support with internal reporting on sustainability targets.

Fully customisable site text and imagery: Images, text and pages within the toolkit can be customised to align with your local messaging. You can also signpost to other local initiatives from within the site.

Multi-lingual: The toolkit can run in English, Welsh, French, and Dutch, with users easily able to switch between languages.





GREEN IMPACT ENGAGEMENT

Green Impact has been running for 20 years. Here's some of what we have achieved in that time...

10,302

10,302 Green Impact teams have formed across participating organisations

52,471

52,471 people have actively been part of Green Impact teams

3,645,853

Green Impact teams have reached over 3.6 million people with sustainability activities

8,808

8,808 students provided with training and development opportunities

607,415

607,415 actions completed by teams and verified by student auditors

1,000

More than 1,000 learning workshops delivered with students and staff

28,500

28,500 tonnes CO₂ saved (estimated from available data)

GREEN IMPACT PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE

More than 50 organisations are taking part in Green Impact, including universities, research centres, local councils and NHS Trusts. Some of our participants this year include...





BENEFITS TO YOUR UNIVERSITY

Tested programme

that covers the whole sustainability agenda, increasing sustainability attitudes, knowledge and behaviours of staff and students.

Meet your sustainability targets

without enforcing, through a completely bespoke toolkit of actions that can be linked to your sustainability strategy or plan.

Participation from the whole organisation

with tangible actions for different areas.

Improved reputation

amongst shareholders, PR, students, league tables.

Gives champions a tangible role

and builds community cohesion and better workplace dynamics by reducing siloed working and improving staff morale and pride.

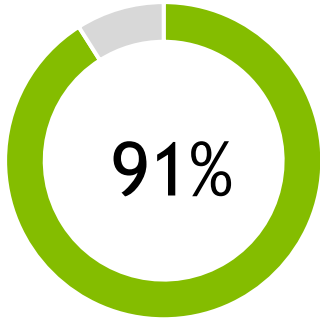
All actions are verified

through student auditors undertaking an IEMA-approved auditor course, delivered by SOS-UK prior to conducting audits.

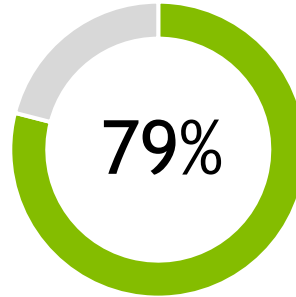
Added capacity to your sustainability work

by engaging teams of staff and students and providing learning and development around sustainability.

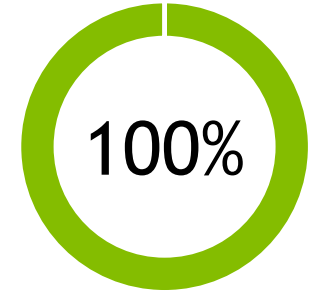
PARTICIPANTS VIEW GREEN IMPACT POSITIVELY



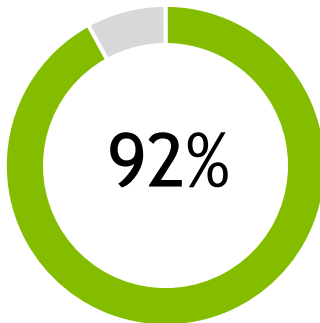
of participants know more about how to use their knowledge to make changes to their daily life



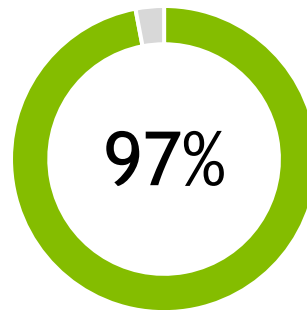
of volunteer student auditors feel the experience has positively enhanced their employability



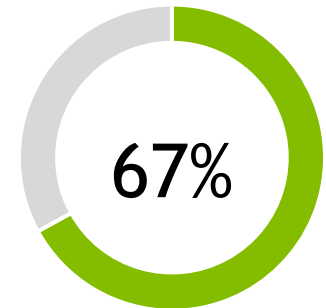
of organisations report they've seen positive changes in pro-environmental behaviour amongst staff



of participants would rate Green Impact as Good or Excellent overall



of participants identified new skills or knowledge gained as a result of taking part in Green Impact



of participants identified changes to their own habits or behaviour as a result of taking part in Green Impact



COSTINGS

SOS-UK is a registered charity, making us an affordable and ethical choice. Our pricing covers our time and resources and is not-for-profit. The table on the right outlines our fees for 2025-26.

These costings are for universities and colleges in the UK. Off-campus organisations can contact us to request a quote.

Up to 1,500 FTE staff	
£9,900 (+VAT) for your first year	£9,500 (+VAT) for subsequent years
1,501 or more FTE staff	
£11,350 (+VAT) for your first year	£10,500 (+VAT) for subsequent years

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

You will have a dedicated Project Manager from SOS-UK to support you with local delivery of the project, which will involve ongoing support for your local coordinator (such as a regular catch-ups) and reactive email support.

As well as overall project management, the activities and support detailed on the next two pages are included in your Green Impact programme fee, and we have a number of bolt-ons available to add to your programme (pages 18-20).



BESPOKE SUPPORT FOR TEAMS

Your Project Manager will deliver bespoke support activities which can cover, but is not limited to, the below. Your Project Manager will work with you to decide the most effective support for your teams.

- In person bespoke workshops and/or online webinars on a variety of sustainability topics.
- Support calls for teams throughout the year to check in on progress.
- Creation of communication materials to support staff teams (posters, recorded videos, graphics, templates).
- Presentations at launch or award events to share the national context and impact of Green Impact.

WHAT IS INCLUDED (CONT.)?



ONLINE TOOLKIT, AUDITS, AND REPORTING

- Support to develop, review and host your bespoke Green Impact toolkit on our online system.
- Reactive technical support for toolkit users.
- Live progress dashboard and leaderboard for teams and departments, and local admin access to monitor overall progress.
- Coordination of IEMA-approved student auditor training and team audits at the end of the year to verify award levels.
- Annual report to demonstrate reach, impact and achievements.
- Monitoring and evaluation of participants and student auditors to capture attitudes, learnings and feedback from the programme.

COMMUNICATION AND RESOURCES

- Access for team members to a series of nationally-coordinated Green Impact support events and resource banks.
- Opportunity to profile your teams and innovations through our international communications.
- Certificate templates, digital badges, and award winner graphics for all Green Impact teams and student auditors.
- Centrally coordinated Special Awards to recognise local actions and impacts on an international stage.
- Opportunity to shape the strategic development of the programme and celebrate the collective achievements across the sector.
- Coordination of sustainably sourced slate awards at cost price (optional)

BOLT-ONS FOR GREEN IMPACT

Green Impact Project Assistants (GIPAs)

The Green Impact Project Assistants (GIPA) scheme provides development opportunities for students as well as extra support for your programme. It's proven successful in many organisations both on and off-campus.

SOS-UK train students to become GIPAs and join Green Impact teams to offer support and additional resource. Through the scheme, students develop a range of transferable skills, gain experience of a professional workplace, and increase their sustainability knowledge. Green Impact Project Assistants also add capacity to your Green Impact teams and act as a link between students and staff at your organisation.

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Tier one	Tier two
Delivery of the initial training of your GIPAs and guidance and templates for you to support them over the year.	Tier 1 AND two additional days of training and/or support for your GIPAs, ongoing check-ins, and a wrap-up event to support with your GIPAs careers development
£910 (+VAT)	£2,630 (+VAT)

BOLT-ONS FOR GREEN IMPACT

Communications support

Engagement takes time, resource and perseverance! We know the best Green Impact programmes are those that provide consistent and high-quality communications for and between teams, but many organisations don't have the resource to deliver this internally.

We've created two tiers of additional support that you can add to your programme. We will discuss with you how best to use this time to build recognition of, and engagement with, Green Impact across the organisation.

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Tier one	Tier two
Four days of communications support, which could include the creation of monthly newsletters, social media content or 1-2-1 communications with your teams	Tier 1, plus three additional days of communications support
£1,620 (+VAT)	£2,835 (+VAT)

BOLT-ONS FOR GREEN IMPACT

Green Impact Laboratory Accreditation (GILA)

Green Impact Laboratory Accreditation (GILA) is an additional support package we offer with actions specific to a research laboratory setting.

Each laboratory completes the necessary actions, is audited, then receives a GILA certificate. The certificate demonstrates progress towards embedding sustainability in research.

Our research laboratory-specific module of 54 nationally standardised actions supports sustainable lab practice. This fulfils the criteria of funding bodies to participate in a sustainability programme (e.g. Wellcome Trust; Cancer Research UK).

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Tier one	Tier two
A remote Q&A session with your teams and an approved GILA certificate per participating lab (for up to 40 labs).	A remote Q&A session with your teams, an additional lab-specific auditor training session and audit period, and an approved GILA certificate per participating lab (for any number of labs).
£425 (+VAT)	£1,995 (+VAT)

BOLT-ONS FOR GREEN IMPACT

Carbon Literacy training

This bolt-on is to upgrade one of your included support days to deliver Carbon Literacy training and certification for up to 20 staff and/or students. Running Carbon Literacy training alongside Green Impact can build local capacity and offers an exciting professional development opportunity with an externally-verified certification for learners.

Carbon Literacy is defined as: “An awareness of the carbon dioxide costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis.”

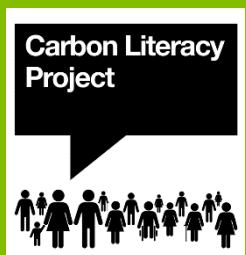
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The training provides attendees with introductory science on the climate crisis, with a focus on climate justice, and the inter-related nature of carbon emissions and wider environmental concerns such as biodiversity loss.

During the training, attendees will begin to develop their own plan for acting on and communicating the climate crisis. The course lasts around 12 hours and includes online training elements and self study.

This training is certified by The Carbon Literacy Project. Upon successful completion of the training, learners will be awarded a Carbon Literacy certificate and a digital badge.

£1,800 +VAT (for up to 20 learners)



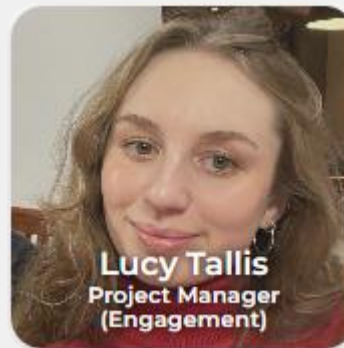
Meet the team



SOS-UK staff represent a range of academic and professional backgrounds from education to biology, and with specialisms in communications and research.

Our staff work from home across the country or from our London office.

Read more about our staff team [on the SOS-UK website](#).





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If you have any questions or would like to sign-up, please contact the Green Impact team on

hello@sos-uk.org

<https://greenimpact.nus.org.uk/>



STUDENTS
ORGANISING FOR
SUSTAINABILITY
UNITED KINGDOM

